

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Entry of the above amendments, and reconsideration and further examination of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Please cancel claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 24, 26, 29, 30, 34, 37, and 38 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 28, 32, 33, 36, 39, and 40 remain in the application.

The amendments submitted above to certain claims have been done so either in response to the Examiner's rejections or objections or to correct claim dependency, to correct antecedent basis, to put the claim in conventional form, to correct punctuation, improper word usage, and the like. Specifically, claims 6 and 25 were amended to correct claim dependency due to a cancelled parent claim, and to correct the antecedent basis for a new element in an amended parent claim. Claims 19, 20, 39, and 40 were amended to correct the antecedent basis for a new element in an amended parent claim. No new matter has been introduced through any of these amendments.

A. Rejection of Claims
Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 28, 32, 36, 39, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchoili et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,588 in view of Byford, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,161, further in view of McCarthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,498,955, and further in view of Gupta, U.S. Patent No. 6,446,109.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 21 to more distinctly distinguish Applicant's invention through the further limitations of (shown in underline):

Claim 1. A method for integrating building services comprising the acts of:

 (a) connecting at least one server to a first external communications interface via a first interconnection channel to form a first integrated building services system;

 (b) connecting a plurality of integrated building services to said first interconnection channel, wherein said first integrated building services system and said plurality of integrated building services form a first building element, and further wherein said plurality of integrated

building services are two or more of at least one service device, at least one client device, at least one client application, and at least one MIS application;

(c) developing an adapter element for each of said at least one service device, each of said at least one client device, and each of said at least one MIS application, wherein each said adapter element is an interface between said first integrated building services system and each of said at least one service device, each of said at least one client device, and each of said at least one MIS application;

(d) loading each of said adapter elements onto said at least one server;

(e) connecting said first external communications interface to a public internet via a first communications channel; and

(f) accessing a web site associated with said first integrated building services system by a user to gain access by said user to utilize any of said plurality of integrated building services of said first building element.

Claim 21. An apparatus for integrated building services, said apparatus comprising:

a first building element, said first building element comprising;

a first integrated building services system, said first integrated building services system comprising;

at least one server;

a first external communications interface; and

a first interconnection channel connecting said at least one server to said first external communications interface;

a plurality of integrated building services connected to said first integrated building services system, wherein said plurality of integrated building services are two or more of at least one service device, at least one client device, at least one client application, and at least one MIS application;

an adapter element for each of said at least one service device, each of said at least one client device, and each of said at least one MIS application, wherein each said adapter element is loaded onto said at least one server, and each said adapter element is an interface between said first integrated building services system and each of said at least one service device, each of said at least one client device, and each of said at least one MIS application;

a first communications channel connecting said first external communications interface to a public internet; and

a web site associated with said first integrated building services system which is accessed by a user in order to utilize any of said plurality of integrated building services of said first building element.

Support for these amendments may be found in the specification on page 5, lines 19-25 and page 9, lines 15-24 and in reference to FIGS. 1 through 9. Applicant submits that Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., and Gupta, combined do not teach nor suggest these additional limitations. The Examiner asserts that Maeda, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,033 teaches a process of integrating devices to communicate on a network consisting of connecting an identified device and loading a developed driver (adapter element) onto the server so that communications can be established. However the adapter element of Applicant's invention is not comparable to the developed driver of Maeda. Applicants invention assumes that any device connected to the network, such as the printer of Maeda, already has the developed driver, normally supplied by the printer manufacturer, installed on the server of the network to which the device, such as the printer of Maeda, is connected. The adapter element of Applicants invention is developed by the Applicant for each device or application that enables each device or application in the network, such as the printer of Maeda, to be accessible by the integrated building services system, a level of integration that is on a different and higher plane than that disclosed in Maeda. Applicants invention as claimed in claim 1 and 21 integrates a plurality of disparate building services claimed as being service devices, client devices, and MIS applications through development of an adapter element. Client applications are developed from the outset to be compatible with the integrated building services system.

A user accessing the web site associated with the integrated building services system can gain access to any of the disparate building services, such as vending machines, access security devices, printers, copiers, fax machines, health and exercise equipment, bio-metric monitors, and point of sale devices (the service devices); personal computers, personal digital assistants, office telephones, and cellular telephones (the client devices); custom travel arrangement services, meeting and resource scheduling, copy center, computer based training, health monitoring services, member Intranet, view account, and automatic personal adaptable environment controls (the client applications); and integrated enterprise resource planning and management

information, accounting, general ledger, receivables, payables, asset management, budget, purchasing, billing, payroll, inventory, human resources, economic monitoring, decision support, order management, and inventory (the MIS applications). None of the prior art of record suggests in combination to one skilled in the art the width, breadth, and scope of Applicants invention, which allows access to all of the disparate building services through one application, the integrated building services system, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 21.

Applicant thus believes that claims 1 and 21 are patentable over Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., and Gupta, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20, 23, 28, 32, 36, 39, and 40 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all the elements and limitations thereof. As a result, and in light of the foregoing remarks concerning independent claims 1 and 21, Applicant likewise believes that claims 3, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20, 23, 28, 32, 36, 39, and 40 also overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., and Gupta under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and withdrawal of that rejection in respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 24, 25, 26, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchoili et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,588 in view of Byford, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,161, further in view of McCarthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,498,955, further in view of Gupta, U.S. Patent No. 6,446,109, and further in view of Maeda, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,033.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 24, 26, 29, and 30, rendering the rejection moot in regard to these claims. Applicant has also amended independent claims 1 and 21, which remaining claims 6 and 25 depend upon respectively, to more distinctly distinguish Applicant's invention as described above in section A.1. Applicant submits that Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., Gupta, and Maeda combined do not teach nor suggest these additional limitations for the arguments stated above in section A.1. Applicant thus believes that claims 6 and 25 also overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., Gupta, and Maeda under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and withdrawal of that rejection in respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 14, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchoili et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,588 in view of Byford, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,161, further in view of McCarthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,498,955, further in view of Gupta, U.S. Patent No. 6,446,109, and further in view of Fontana et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,167,564.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 34, rendering the rejection moot in regard to this claim. Applicant has also amended independent claims 1 and 21, which remaining claims 13 and 14, and 33 depend upon respectively, to more distinctly distinguish Applicant's invention as described above in section A.1. Applicant submits that Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., Gupta, Maeda and Fontana et al. combined do not teach nor suggest these additional limitations for the arguments stated above in section A.1. Applicant thus believes that claims 13, 14, and 33 also overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Marchoili et al. in view of Byford, McCarthy et al., Gupta, and Fontana et al. under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and withdrawal of that rejection in respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

4. The Examiner has rejected claims 17, 18, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchoili et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,588 in view of Byford, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,161, further in view of McCarthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,498,955, further in view of Gupta, U.S. Patent No. 6,446,109, and further in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,349,408.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 17, 18, 37, and 38, rendering the rejection moot in regard to these claims.

CONCLUSION:

A bona-fide attempt has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. Each of the Examiner's bases for objection and rejection have been addressed and the claims have been amended, canceled, or arguments presented to overcome such rejections. The application is now believed to meet all statutory requirements and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early indication to that effect is, therefore, courteously solicited.

If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a call is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due with this response. If this is not the case, please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment to, deposit account 50-0792.

Respectfully submitted,

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